



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

 July 23,
1947
No 1425

WILL MAN EVER SET FOOT ON THE MOON?

The Rocket Men Dream of Fresh Worlds to Explore

ROCKET trips to the moon within the next ten years are predicted by W. E. Osbourne, the Los Angeles scientist, who disclosed recently that radar contact with the earth's satellite was made over four years ago. Now the stories of H. G. Wells and Jules Verne appear to be moving into the sphere of practical experiment.

A rocket-driven space-ship has been designed in Paris by Alexander Ananoff, who claims that it will reach the moon in eight hours. It is shaped like a bullet, ninety feet high, and its sealed cabin will seat a crew of two.

In the United States, too, the Interplanetary Society have been experimenting for some years past in rocket design. Many different kinds of possible space-ships have been considered, and some ideas reached the drawing-board.

Just before the war the science magazine, *Nature*, published an article about a proposed moon rocket, whose propulsive unit was contained in four sections, three to take the craft to the moon and one to bring it back. Lack of funds prevented this space-ship from being built.

Rocket ships capable of reaching far beyond the moon to the planets, and even beyond into the depths of space, will be built, say the Jules Vernes of today, when atomic energy is a controlled power.

What lies ahead in the path of the space explorer? The moon, nearest to the earth, is a lifeless sphere of barren rock. It is a dead world, "shining" only by the reflected rays of the sun.

Not far away from us relatively to the vast distances of space is Mars, the so-called Red Planet. Whether there is life upon this sister world has been a matter of argument among scientists for many years. Some assert that the distinct linear markings on its surface are canals, made by living beings, pointing to a quite

advanced state of civilisation. One day this interesting question may be answered by the first pioneers who land on Mars.

Nearer to the sun, on the other side of the earth, lies the planet Venus. It must be a very much hotter place than our own planet, yet some astronomers tell us that its dense, cloudy atmosphere might possibly conceal a flourishing tropical vegetation.

Other planets do not hold out any hope of supporting life. They are either too hot, like Mercury, near the sun, or too cold, like Pluto, which moves on the cold "fringe" of endless space.

Men have never been satisfied by the limitations of the universe, and pioneers of atomic-driven space-ships even dream dreams of breaking the chains of gravitation with which our own star, the sun, holds us, and speeding into the great beyond.

Every Little Helps

MEMBERS of the Young Farmers' Clubs are doing splendid service outside school hours to help to win Britain's battle for food. This summer they are particularly active in Sussex, and in the little village of Selham 30 boys and girls are helping with the milking and feeding of livestock and with harvesting.

Another good piece of work in this village was the saving of a widow's poultry farm, about to be given up because of rationing difficulties. With waste food collected by the Young Farmers she will be able to keep her poultry.

Down Beneath the Mountain

INTO THE DEPTHS OF GAPING GHYLL

AN adventurous band of cave explorers have recently been making the first descents since 1839 into the depths of Gaping Ghyll, the famous pot-hole at the base of one of Yorkshire's three highest mountains, Ingleborough.

Lessons learned during the war have benefited the men making the spider-like descent into this underground realm of stalactites and stalagmites.

Previous to the war, pot-holers had to be lowered by hand down the 365-foot shaft, a long and arduous task for the men working the winch on the ground. During recent descents, a steel gantry designed by a R.E.M.E. captain while serving in Germany, constructed from the framework of a burnt-out lorry and equipped with petrol engines, has operated the bosun chair up and down the shaft.

The main chamber of Gaping Ghyll, incredible though it may seem, is vast enough to accommodate York Minster and still have room to spare. Ever since the first descent in 1895, accredited to a French geographer, Edouard Martel, pot-holers have been mystified about the actual course of the Fell Beck water from the point where it leaves the floor of the main chamber to its reappearance near Giants' Hall in Clapham Cave some miles away. Fifty years of exploration have revealed some three miles of passages, but the "missing link" between Gaping Ghyll and Clapham Cave has yet to be discovered.

The exploring band hope that new underground wonders will be revealed, and that they will be able to enrich the knowledge of Yorkshire's underworld.

SCOUTS AFLOAT



Newcastle Boy Scouts who have been visiting Holland broke their journey in London and spent the night in the training ship *Discovery*, which is moored in the Thames by the Victoria Embankment. Here they are waving goodbye before leaving the *Discovery* to continue their journey.

Fluff Finds a New Home

A HAPPY ENDING IN NEW ZEALAND

MOST readers of the CN will remember the story of Fluff, the dog which arrived in New Zealand last October on a hospital ship from Japan. His master, Bandsman Plimer, of the Royal Scots, had lost both feet through neglect of frostbite by the Japanese and went off to hospital. Poor Fluff refused to budge from under the empty cot on board and it looked as though he would have to be destroyed.

Then, as Fluff's tragic plight became known, dog-lovers all over New Zealand began to take an interest in him, and finally an appeal for his life was made to the Prime Minister by the Auckland SPCA. Mr Fraser gave the word for the dog to be put in quarantine on Somes Island, near Wellington. Fluff was saved!

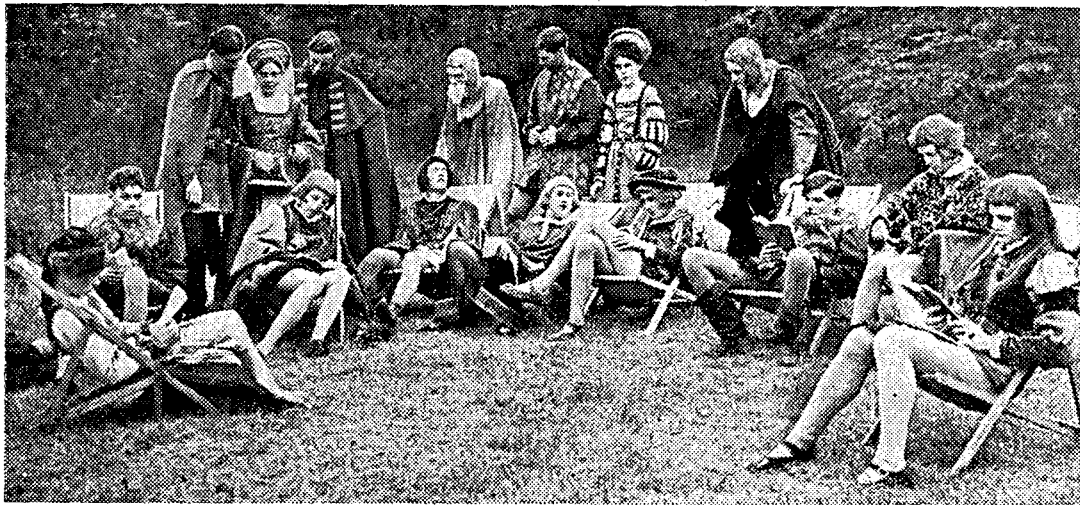
Now comes the happiest of sequels. Fluff has been returned to his master with a clean bill of health, and we can picture in our minds their joyous reunion. But that is not all. This brown-and-white dog in whom all New Zealand took an interest, is sure

of a good home there for the rest of his days; for Bandsman Plimer, who is soon to be fitted with artificial limbs, is to be married in October to a New Zealand girl who visited him in hospital, and he has decided to settle in the Dominion when he is discharged from the Army.

USED STAMPS FOR EDUCATION

SOME years ago the Rotarians of Johannesburg placed collecting boxes around the city, and appealed to the inhabitants to deposit in them all cancelled stamps from the letters which they receive. The result has exceeded all expectations. In 1944, for instance, about three million cancelled stamps were received, sorted out, and sold to collectors, and the sales realised £505. With this and other money subsequently collected the Rotarians have helped boys and girls whose parents could not afford a higher education to obtain technical, trade, and university training, and to pay for apprenticeships.

SCHOOL'S OPEN-AIR THEATRE



Bradfield College, Berkshire, has its own open-air Greek theatre where recently the boys played *Hamlet* before an audience seated in the amphitheatre. Above, some of the young performers are resting behind the scenes between calls.

KNOWLEDGE AS THE KEY TO PEACE AND HAPPINESS

LACKING maybe the dramatic moments that bring the world's political conferences into front page news, a meeting of some 150 delegates from 44 nations has been held in London this month to discuss plans for human well-being—plans on which world peace and happiness ultimately depend.

These delegates, ambassadors and leading figures in the educational and scientific activities of the 44 countries, were the Preparatory Commission of Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation, which is to hold its first annual Conference in Paris in November.

Unesco, as CN readers will remember, was born in London last November, when an executive board of 15 was appointed, one of the seats being left open for Russia in the hope that she will join, and a secretariat, led by Dr Julian Huxley, was established in London until the headquarters at the Hotel Majestic in Paris is ready.

The main purposes of Unesco are to develop and maintain mutual understanding of the life, culture, humanities, and science of the world's peoples, and to extend all knowledge and culture as a contribution to their political security and general well-being. The schools and other educational centres, libraries, the newspapers, radio, and cinemas are specified as agents in this work.

The French delegates have, for example, put forward a plan for an all-round reduction of press cable and postage rates, radio and teleprinter charges, and so on, to help journalists throughout the world. They want existing "censorships" to be examined with a view to the "freedom of the press" becoming a reality in all the United Nations.

Among the needs set out by the Unesco Committee on Letters and Philosophy are more and better translations of books and plays, the international exchange of theatre companies, and the removal of hatred and jingoism from literature.

The last point is especially desirable for school histories. There are studies, too, which are common to children everywhere in the world, so that in view of the fact that half mankind is still illiterate, as a foundation Unesco might help to build an educational system that is both worldwide and imbued with the true international spirit.

Unesco must receive the support of all men of good will.

Vancouver's Sixty Years

ON Dominion Day, Canada's great Pacific seaport of Vancouver celebrated its diamond jubilee. A parade ten miles long illustrated the city's amazing development in the last 60 years as well as incidents in the history of Vancouver Island, whose coast is about 33 miles from the city across the Strait of Georgia.

Both city and island are named after Captain George Vancouver of the British Navy, whose first landing on the island in 1792 was re-enacted in the recent celebrations. Little did this naval officer foresee the immense commercial activities that were to develop in this quiet and beautiful forest land. A British colony was not established on the island until 1843.

The City of Vancouver, on the mainland of British Columbia opposite the island, was not

founded until 1886—and a few months after the first town was built of wood, all the houses except one were burnt down in a fire. Where now stands Canada's third largest city, with a population of 275,000, there was in 1885 nothing but a dense forest. Since 1886 its population has multiplied 200 times.

Vancouver owes its wonderful expansion to its selection as the Pacific terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in 1887, and to its natural harbour, which is one of the finest in the world. The railway links it with the Atlantic coast, vessels from its harbour sail to the ports of America on the Pacific, and across that ocean to China and Australia. In place of the wooden shacks of 60 years ago stand great factories, spacious streets, and noble buildings.

ALAN LEAPS TO FAME

SCOTLAND, and indeed, all Britain, has in recent weeks thrilled at the feats of a young Glasgow athlete, Alan S. Paterson. Alan is a high-jumper who promises to take his place among world champions.

Paterson, who is only 18 but stands 6 feet 5 inches, first came into prominence two years ago when he won the high jump at a Glasgow sports meeting by clearing 6 feet. Alan was then still a schoolboy.

Last year Paterson really leapt to the forefront. He broke the Scottish native high-jump record with a jump of 6 feet 3 inches; and the AAA invited him to jump at the White City and to represent Britain in an athletic contest with France in Paris.

In the course of this season Alan has cleared 6 feet 5 inches at Coventry, and 6 feet 5½ inches in Ireland. At home he has

become Scottish high-jump champion, his jump of 6 feet 2 inches winning him joint possession of the George Crabbe Cup for the most meritorious performance at the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association's annual sports.

Since then Alan has crowned all these achievements with a jump of 6 feet 6½ inches at the International Athletics meeting at Antwerp—the best ever by a British jumper.

OUR KINSMEN HELP US

NEW ZEALANDERS are making great efforts to ease our food situation, and their National Food-for-Britain campaign has received wide support. During April and May this year New Zealanders gave up more than 1,600,000 meat coupons and 90,000 butter coupons so that this part of their rations might be sent to Britain.

Saving Canterbury Cathedral

RECENTLY the Archbishop of Canterbury made an appeal to "all who have loved it" to come to the aid of Canterbury Cathedral.

On the morning of May 22, 1942, the blitz-worn citizens of Canterbury said: "Thank God the Cathedral's still standing." For the previous night 15 high-explosive bombs had fallen in the Cathedral precincts and incendiaries had rained on it. The glorious building still raised its lovely towers skywards, but severe damage had been done.

The library had been destroyed and those ancient walls had received a terrible shaking. In the precincts several historic buildings had been totally destroyed or damaged.

In his appeal Dr Fisher reveals that £300,000 will be needed to



preserve Canterbury Cathedral. Even before the war the rate of natural decay of the fabric was causing alarm, and things have become much worse after six years of neglect and shaking by bombs.

There will, we are confident, be an eager response to the appeal to save this historic shrine of the Christian Faith, dear to the hearts of English-speaking people all over the world. Donations should be sent to the Cathedral Appeal Office, 21, The Precincts, Canterbury.

THE EMPIRE'S TEA TABLE

THE Empire Tea Bureau, which represents one of the Commonwealth's greatest industries, is opening on July 17 a Tea Centre at 22 Regent Street, London, which is to be a permanent exhibition of everything to do with tea, its history, and its production; and, also, an advice bureau on how to make the most of the rationed leaf.

In the centre's entrance is a great mural decoration by John Farleigh showing tea-drinking customs throughout the world, and here too are specimens of different kinds of tea, one oddly called "Old man's eyebrows."

There are many beautiful and historic teapots in the exhibition, and the development of tea-drinking in England is illustrated by original colour prints, drawings, tradesmen's cards, and models. The story of the production of tea, from the plantation to the packet, is described by fine dioramas and a mechanical quiz which amusingly answers questions when a button is pressed.

During the last fortnight of July there is being shown the famous picture by Zoffany of the Auriol family, perhaps the finest of Zoffany's Indian paintings, and near it will be the actual teapot in the picture.

We British are great tea-drinkers, so the new centre should prove a popular institution.

WORLD NEWS REEL

A FRESH START. The United Nations are taking over the League of Nations Palace at Geneva, and the Council of Unrra will open its next session there on August 2.

The new British Headquarters in Hamburg is to be built by 5000 German workers.

In accordance with agreement, the £5,000,000 airport built by the British at Reykjavik during the war has been given to the people of Iceland.

HARVEST HOME. In the Middle Western States of the US the winter wheat harvest is nearly complete. Grain elevators are filled and wheat has had to be stacked in school playgrounds to await transport.

Statues with inscribed tablets 3000 years old have been discovered near Assouan in Egypt. They were found in a shrine erected to the goddess Heq-ib.

The White Needle, a 22,000-foot mountain in the Himalayas which it is believed had never been ascended before, was climbed recently by Major Roy Berry of Clifton Brighthouse, Yorkshire.

PEACE CONFERENCE. Invitations have been sent to 21 nations to attend the Peace Conference to be held in Paris on July 29.

An official record altitude of 83½ miles was made when a V 2 rocket was fired from the White-sands testing ground in the U.S.

An air service between Britain and West Africa, running three times a week, has been opened. The first plane left the Gold Coast not long ago.

The new Chinese ambassador to Britain, successor to Dr Wellington Koo, is Dr Cheng-Tien-Hsi, a judge of The Hague International Court.

French people in the Norman port of St Valery-en-Caux gave an enthusiastic welcome to Highland pipers who headed a Scottish delegation commemorating the stand made there in 1940 by the 51st Highland Division and their liberation of the town in 1944.

Next month 55 citizens of Arnhem, the Dutch town famous for the deeds of the 1st Airborne Division, will visit the homes of Croydon people as guests.

HOME NEWS REEL

TRAGIC FIGURES. Last May, on an average, one more child was killed every day on the roads than in April. The total number of children killed was 126, and of adults 279. Twenty child cyclists were killed; 443 children were seriously injured, and 1076 slightly injured.

Outside mushrooms weighing more than a pound each shot up in fields in East Anglia recently after heavy rain.

Many more Peace postage stamps have been printed, making the total 300,000,000 2½d stamps and 42,000,000 3d stamps.

NEW FLAG. The National Savings flag, approved by the King, was flown for the first time on a steamer taking Savings workers for a trip from Totnes.

The flag day of the Life-Boat Service held in Greater London in May realised £12,817.

At Dover on August 14 Mr Churchill will be installed as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

SILENT DOG. A Central African Basenji dog belonging to a 6000-year-old breed that never barks, was in the television programme recently.

RAF planes flew 45 million passenger miles in May without an accident involving death or injury.

Although she broke her wrist as she was going on to the stage at St Martin's Theatre recently, Ada Reeve, aged 70, carried on with her part.

YOUNG REF. The youngest qualified referee of the All-England Netball Association is 13-year-old Joyce Salter of Chelmsford.

A cabbage 3 feet 6 inches across the top and weighing 20 lbs has been grown by Mr W. Eades of Newhaven, Sussex.

The Save the Children Fund has received a cheque for £14,000 from the women relatives of Rotarians in 315 Inner Wheel Clubs.

YOUR DOG. The National Canine Defence League, 8 Clifford Street, London, W1, have issued a leaflet explaining how best to feed a dog during food shortage. A penny stamped envelope should be enclosed with applications.

J. P. Campbell of Canford School, Wimborne, accomplished a remarkable cricket feat when, against Taunton School, he completed his 1000 runs for the term for the second year running.

COOL COOK. When the steamer Merchant Royal sank off Portland after colliding with an American ship, the cook went on frying eggs for the crew until the last moment. No lives were lost.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

QUICK WORK. Buckinghamshire Girl Guides' quota for the HQ Development Fund was £687 in three years, but they have raised £1000 in four months.

Among recent recipients of the Silver Buffalo, the highest award of the American Scout Council, was Walt Disney, "for his contributions to the joy of youth in every land."

Two British Guides will attend the Juliette Low camp at Adelsboden in Switzerland, the first to be held since 1939. These international camps are named after the founder of the American Girl Scouts.

LENDING A HAND. Eight Senior Service Girl Scouts have arrived from America to help at Guide camps in England, Scotland, and Wales, many of which will be short-staffed.

Frivilligt Drenge-Forbund, the Boys Brigade of Denmark, has been holding a Brass Band Festival in which 900 instrumentalists took part.

Rover Scout Michael Bacon of Eastleigh, Hants, has received a Letter of Commendation from the Chief Scout for his services during six years of war. He gave up much spare time to act as messenger at a Naval Air Station, especially during air raids.

The Children's Newspaper, July 20, 1946

20,000 Chicks on the Wing

ON a certain day in June 20,000 chicks burst from their shells and, on the following day, flew a distance of some hundreds of miles!

Actually they flew from Switzerland to Vienna in a Dakota DC3 especially arranged to carry five hundred cases in which they were warmed to the exact temperature to suit one-day-old chicks. The hen-houses in Austria being practically empty, the Austrian Department of Agriculture had asked that they might be refilled. Switzerland responded to the appeal; about fifty chicken-farms provided the chicks and Swiss-Air arranged for their transport.

PEG-LEG THE ALSATIAN

WARRANT OFFICER R. C. JONES of the R.A.F. who, though badly injured when the plane he was in crashed in the Isle of Man last January, crawled for miles to get help for his companions, was recently awarded the George Medal, and the Alsatian dog that came to his rescue has been given a silver medal by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

The dog is called Peg-Leg because he has lost a paw. He found Warrant Officer Jones in an exhausted condition and ran to fetch his master.

Living Drama at the Library

MANCHESTER has done so much for British drama and music in recent years that it comes as a surprise to learn that the Arts Council have had to pass that city by in every theatrical enterprise made by them, owing to lack of suitable accommodation.

The City Corporation are proposing to ease the position by obtaining power from Parliament to present stage plays, concerts, dancing, and so on in the public libraries. These performances would be held entirely for educational purposes and not for profit.

We learn that there are 42 amateur dramatic societies in Manchester. Their members would be among the many who would benefit by seeing actors of the first rank. The schools, too, would be able to use the lecture theatre at the Central Library for their displays.



At the Good Will Camp

Scouts of more than 12 nations will camp at Blair Atholl Castle, from July 24 to 31, with hundreds of British Scouts. These Scottish lads are in the Castle grounds cutting logs for the camp fires.

They had to travel during their first two days of life because for that period they do not take food, and arrangements had to be made for them all to be hatched on the same day.

This would seem impossible if we think of thousands of mother-hens sitting on their eggs patiently waiting for the great day; but incubators and electricity make most things possible for chicken-breeding. So the 20,000 little balls of fluff emerged from the eggs all on the right day and set off on their long flight, all unconscious of what the progress of science had done for them—and for the people of Austria.

June Snow

The C.N. Geneva correspondent sends us this little note on a holiday experience in the Alps.

JUNE in the high mountains of Switzerland! Sun, flowers, cow-bells! What a delightful picture!

But what we actually did on midsummer day in 1946 was to sit by the fire and spin or knit, read or talk, while outside the snow fell heavily from dawn till dusk!

Two days later, however, the pastures were again uncovered and there were the flowers as gay as ever. The golden globe-flowers that covered the fields were just as upright as if they had never been buried under eight inches of snow; so, too, were the sulphur anemones, but the big bell gentians found it hard to lift up their lovely blue heads.

The seasons of this year seem to have been upset by the earthquake shocks that have shaken us up and down in our beds on several occasions between January and May.

THE RARE KIWI

THE New Zealand Government recently refused permission for a kiwi's egg to leave the country, ruling that the rare kiwi is an absolutely protected bird. The Melbourne Zoo had offered Auckland Zoo a live platypus in exchange for a kiwi's egg.

New Zealanders are most anxious to preserve this curious bird, which has only the merest stumps of wings hidden under its hair-like feathers, but can run swiftly. It is about the size of a domestic hen, but lays an egg over five inches long and three inches across.

MAROONED IN THE BUSH

NOT long ago a mail plane, flying from Nairobi to Mombasa, was obliged by engine trouble to land in the vast Kenya bush-country. There were five passengers on board, including a two-months-old baby. Nowhere in the great silent wilderness could they see any sign of human inhabitants to help them.

Their only hope was to be spotted from the air by planes sent out to search for them, so, collecting stones, they formed on the ground in large letters the word that expressed their most pressing need: "Water."

An R.A.F. plane saw the word, and one of its crew believed he saw a lion prowling among the trees and scrub. Soon supplies were dropped to them—with a rifle in case the lion should become too attentive. Later, another plane landed beside them and took them on to Mombasa. The baby was none the worse for the first adventure of its life.

The Archer



At the archery range of the Royal Toxophilite Society in Hyde Park, London, Mr. Bilson, a British champion, shows a woman archer the correct stance.

SIX FEET TOO MANY

AN incident, said to be unique in county cricket, happened at Chesterfield recently during a match between Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Two overs had been bowled when Len Hutton noticed that the pitch looked too long. The distance between the wickets was measured and found to be 24 yards instead of 22. The pitch was then adjusted and the match was begun all over again.

Empire Exhibits

THE Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute at South Kensington are again open to the general public from 10 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. on weekdays. There is a display of Empire films in the cinema each day at 3.30 p.m.

The four galleries are a magnificent centre in which to study interesting facts about the Overseas Empire. Some of these facts are shown in pictures, some as connected stories, some in the form of dioramas and lighted transparencies; others are models and specimens—exhibits which come alive and link up with other exhibits to tell the story of the Overseas Empire.



Children's Party at a Palace

A young lady dressed in a crinoline with some of the happy young guests at a garden party held at St James's Palace in aid of the Mothercraft Training Society, of which the Queen is patron.

Revising the Maori Bible

A REVISED edition of the Bible in the Maori language is to be printed next year. The last edition, printed 22 years ago, was marred by several errors, and all copies of it have been sold, among the Maoris of New Zealand, who now number about 100,000.

A committee of the 12 greatest scholars of the Maori tongue are busy at present doing for the Maori people what the scholars of the time of King James I did for the people of England—revising the Bible so that more people may read and understand it. Ten of these scholars are Maoris, and include Sir Apirana Ngata, who was for 40 years a member of the New Zealand Parliament, and was a brilliant University scholar in his youth.

Their task is not only to correct mistakes, but to give to passages that in the earlier edition were mere translations the beauty and clarity of the native tongue.

IMPORTANT

THE Midsummer Term is ending and many boys and girls are looking forward to their first real holiday for years—for many their first real holiday. Before you go away from home, please ask your newsagent to reserve your copies of the C.N. until your return.

The Wiggly Leech is Here Again

THERE arrived in London recently the first cargo of medicinal leeches to be imported since before the war. A leech is a blood-sucking worm which in the old times was much used by doctors for the "blood-letting" thought to be a cure for many diseases. In those days a physician was often called a Leech.

Nowadays leeches are used only in cases of black eyes or other contusions when the leech, applied to the swollen part, will reduce it. In peacetime most leading chemists kept a stock of leeches and obtained them from abroad; for the leech of our British streams and ponds doesn't bite hard enough!

Medicinal leeches were obtained from Europe and Australia. Near Hanover there used to be leech farms which supplied the speckled leech—a good sticker!

THE FLOATING CHURCH

NORTHERN Norway now has a floating church, built on a barge, which visits remote fishing villages in the Tromsø area. Many of the churches in this part of Norway were destroyed during the German occupation. The floating church is a gift from the Swedish Lutheran Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Rose Hips Needed

THE County Herb Committees, which during the war organised the collecting of rose hips, have now closed down, but rose hips are still urgently required for making rose hip syrup, which is a very important source of Vitamin C. The production of this syrup is largely dependent on the efforts of schoolchildren and Youth Clubs, who in recent years collected about four-fifths of the total quantity of rose hips used.

Now manufacturers will approach Local Education Authorities and schools either direct or through voluntary organisers and will give advice about collecting rose hips and where to deliver them. A payment of 3d per pound will be made. Further information can be obtained from the National Rose Hip Products Association, 177 to 179 Bilton Road, Greenford, Middlesex.

There were also the green, or Hungarian, leech, and the five-striped leech from Australia. The scientific name for these rather unpleasant creatures is *Hirudo medicinalis*.

They normally live in water or damp places and have at both ends of their bodies circular suckers each furnished with three tiny saw-edged jaws with which they cling to fish, frogs, or animals while feeding.

A correspondent who once worked for a chemist told the C.N. she found it a tricky job getting leeches into a tin to be sent where they were needed. They wriggled so! And they would immediately stick to any part of her skin they could reach and draw blood before they could be removed.

This lady is emphatic in not recommending them as pets—and C.N. readers will agree with her!

July 20, 1946



Helicopter Pest-Killer

This helicopter with spraying gear for ridding crops of pests is called a Spraying Mantis, after that queer insect the Praying Mantis, which lives on smaller insects.

Defender of Our Open Spaces

ON Thursday July 11 a grand old champion of the Englishman's right to enjoy England's green and pleasant land, Sir Lawrence Chubb, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his work for the Commons, Open Spaces, and Footpaths Preservation Society, of which he is secretary.

Although over 70, he is not thinking of retiring and is determined to preserve the countryside for the ramblers.

The Society was formed in 1866 to start the struggle to save London's commons from being built over, and Londoners today owe their refreshing open spaces—Wimbledon Common, Epping Forest, Tooting Common, Coulsdon, Banstead, Berkhamsted, and others—to the tireless efforts of the Society in its early days. It instituted successful lawsuits against those trying to enclose the common land, and in some cases took drastic action to preserve the people's heritage. Thus when someone, quite illegally, put a fence round Berkhamsted Common, the Society sent down a trainload of workmen, who pulled down the fence one bright moonlit night.

During its 80 years the Society has helped to preserve half a million acres of commons in England and Wales. It is believed that there are in England and Wales 1,600,000 acres over which we are free to roam, and our rights of access to them are

jealously guarded by the Society.

To a CN correspondent Sir Lawrence Chubb spoke recently of the history of our open spaces. Commons are beautiful, he said, because in general they have been left as Nature made them. They are primeval. They have survived in this condition, he went on, because in the past they were subject to peculiar rights and privileges of which farmers and cottagers were extremely jealous, rights which generally dated from Saxon times.

They were lands where there was common right of pasture and a general ground for obtaining litter for beasts to lie on, and bracken to enrich arable land. But during the 18th and 19th centuries no fewer than 4700 Acts of Parliament were passed allowing some five million acres of these common lands to be enclosed and become private property. However, this enclosing of land virtually ceased after the Society began its activities.

One of the Society's more recent triumphs, which Sir Lawrence Chubb rightly regards as the crowning success of his life, was the passing of the Access to Mountains Act, which gives the public the right to enter the enchanted land of Britain's loveliest mountains and moorlands.

Sir Lawrence has secured for the Youth of England a great heritage for open-air recreation which it is theirs to maintain.

CRUISING DOWN THE CANAL

SOME of the landing craft which not so long ago were carrying our troops to victory are now carrying holiday-makers along the 57-mile-long Preston-Kendal Canal, one of the most beautiful of all our stretches of inland waterway. This new enterprise, which is the idea of four Morecambe men, has been given every consideration by the LMS Railway, which owns the canal.

These raiding craft, converted to seat 32 passengers, are painted in colours to blend with the beauty of the route they travel; and their speed is restricted to four knots, which makes the wash and noise almost negligible.

Along this winding waterway between Hest Bank and Carnforth are some very beautiful views, including Morecambe Bay, Warton Crag, and the distant Lakeland mountains.

Although this idea of pleasure cruises may seem new, the historical records of the canal state that from May 10, 1820, packetboats carrying passengers and packages, drawn by horses, would operate regularly between Preston, Lancaster, and Kendal. The fare for the single journey was six shillings first-class and four shillings second-class, and the number of passengers carried in six months in 1833 was 16,000.

SIGNALLING WITH INFRA-RED RAYS

THE Americans have recently made public a secret method used by them during the war by which ships can signal to each other with infra-red searchlight rays invisible to the naked eye. These signals can only be seen by an observer on another ship using specially designed infra-red binoculars.

The danger of signalling with ordinary lights in wartime is



that the enemy may see the signals, and even if the words of the message are in code it is possible to decipher them afterwards. That applies also to radio messages. But the "invisible light" signals are hidden from the enemy.

The picture above shows the infra-red searchlight apparatus for sending out the signals. The sailor is using the special viewer for picking up infra-red signals from another craft.

The Last Bath Chair

BATH chairs are still used for invalids, but the time was when gentlemen of Bath travelled in them for pleasure.

It was the city of Bath that gave the name to these vehicles. Now Mr E. Ball, the last man licensed to pull a bath chair in Bath, has retired, and he has presented his vehicle to the local museum.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

A TOUCH OF COLOUR

ONE British railway company has announced a long list of stations it proposes to paint and decorate after the enforced neglect of the war years. This is news which will be welcomed not only by travellers but by all citizens who crave for a "dash of colour" to lighten the drabness of our towns and cities. Let the painter's brush be busy again in the land. Let more colour brighten our ways and put on a brave show before winter comes.

OUTWARD signs, of course, are not always a true reflection of inward happiness.

*If England was what England seems,
An' not the England of our dreams,
But only putty, brass, and paint,
'Ow quick we'd drop 'er. But she ain't!*

Kipling knew that our land of colour and romance was often covered by "the English drizzle," and this summer has indeed shown all the fickleness of our climate. That is all the more reason for the painters to freshen with their paint (if they can get any) not only the railway stations but the homes of the people, where a touch of colour will add a new warmth to houses which have grown shabby in the war years.

COLOUR in our sombre, uncertain climate never has the sharp freshness that it has in southern lands. But it is wonderful what a change can be wrought with a pot of paint.

TOWN-DWELLING Britons who love the country in all its beauty need not be condemned to live in unlovely towns. We can add colour to them. We can paint our own corner of the land—even if it be only a gatepost or a few window frames. That can be our contribution to dispelling the drab and unlovely, and redecking, "in goodly colours gloriously arrayed," our homes and cities to greet the new dawn of peace and friendship.

WE owe this service to our friends and to ourselves, for our land is composed of communities of people living closely together in confined spaces where the drab and grey is too evident. We endured the drab during all the war years; let us now indulge in a season of painting, and give to each of our cities a new mantle, gay and colourful.

SUMMER VALLEY

ON the sweet valley of deep grass,
Where through the summer stream doth pass,
In chain of shadow, and still pool,
From misty morn to evening cool;
Where the black ivy creeps and twines
O'er the dark-armed, red-trunked pines.
William Morris

The New Nation in the Pacific

THERE have been so many postponements in international affairs in recent months that it was a heartening experience to read of the achievement of full independence by the Philippine Republic on July 4, 1946, the date fixed by the U S Congress in 1934.

Both the U S and the Philippine Governments have worked happily together during the transitional period to ensure that the new Republic shall be a virile nation, worthy to take an effective part in world affairs.

The British Commonwealth of Nations especially welcomes this new and friendly nation in the Pacific.

Doing Unto Others

ABLECRAFT Limited is the title of a new company at Palmers Green, London, formed to give disabled ex-Servicemen suitable work, such as the making of toys and furniture.

Members of the Southgate Rotary Club are responsible for this splendid enterprise. A site for a factory has been obtained, plans for its building have been passed, and in due course the business will be handed over to the men themselves.

Everyone will applaud the action of these men of Southgate, inspired by the Christian doctrine of Do Unto Others. Everyone will wish success to the scheme.

SET FAIR

JULY, God send thee calm and fayre,
That happy harvest we may see,
With quyet tyme and healthsome ayre,
And man to God may thankful bee.
Old English Rhyme

Under the Ed



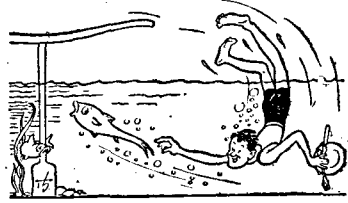
PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If gramophone
enthusiasts put
on airs

AN old man attributes his long life to hard work. Had to work hard to live so long.

GREENGROCERS complain that they have to pay top prices for vegetables. Not turnip top prices.

SHORT people are often shy. They can be drawn out.



YOU should not dive into the sea after a meal. Have it laid properly on a table.

THINGS SAID

SURELY it matters not who did this or who did that. The result is what counts.

Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery

WHEN people say that this country is small compared with Russia and America, I say, Don't believe them. Quality counts and not quantity. Britain has that quality.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield

I AM proud of having been a witness to this glorious chapter in the history of these Isles.

Dr Wellington Koo, former Chinese ambassador

TO my mind secondary education does not and should not mean grammar school education for all. We want to educate children according to their ability and aptitude.

Minister of Education

THE general retiring age should be 300.

George Bernard Shaw, aged 90

More and Better Toys

THE Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade has recently stated that more and better toys are on the way.

During our years of austerity present-buying, particularly for the young, has become almost a lost art. The news that more toys are to be available will enable parents and uncles and aunts to show how clever they can be on such important occasions as birthdays, while at Christmas time the grand old custom of filling stockings will cease to be a headache.

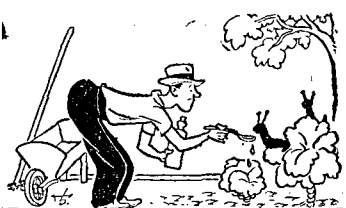
JUST AN IDEA

Opportunities are sensitive; if you slight their first visit you seldom see them again.

Editor's Table

A MAN says he plays tennis with his left hand. Pity he can't buy a racquet.

HONEY from Norfolk will be less plentiful. Must have all gone to pot.



AN amateur gardener asks what is the proper cure for slugs. Depends what is the matter with them.

OUR stocks of coal are lower than ever. They always were down in the cellar.

SEASIDE landladies have come in for some harsh criticism. Will wish they had stayed out.

SERVANTS receive more attention than they used to. And don't like to be given notice.

Forewarned Is Forearmed

YOUNG children looking forward to seaside holidays will doubtless hope to have much fun on the sands with spade and pail.

Unfortunately many of them are likely to be disappointed, for it has been estimated that only about one in ten is likely to get a new spade and bucket. Most of those being made will be exported to help to pay for necessities which we must have from other countries.

Forewarned is forearmed. If you happen to have such things still left at home, take them with you. If not, make do with some substitutes; there is always fun in trying out a new device.

THE SUN IN SPLENDOUR

THE golden sun, in splendour likeliest heaven

Dispenses light from far; they, as they move

Their starry dance, in numbers that compute

Days, months, and years, toward his all-cheering lamp,

Turn swift their various motions, or are turned

By his magnetic beam, that gently warms

The universe; and to each inward part,

With gentle penetration, though unseen,

Shoots invisible virtue even to the deep. *Milton*

A Short Train Journey

TRAVELLING is no easy matter today, involving, as it often does, long waits in queues, and, occasionally, much filling-in of forms. But for those people who sigh for the good old go-as-you-please days, we reprint here an 1837 regulation of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. From this it may be gathered that there were no half-measures; the traveller had to prove that his Journey was Really Necessary.

Any person desiring to travel from Liverpool to Manchester or vice-versa . . . must, twenty-four hours beforehand, make application to the Station Agent at the Place of Departure, giving his name, address, place of birth, age, occupation, and reason for desiring to travel. The Station Agent, on assuring himself that the applicant desires to travel for a just and lawful cause, shall thereupon issue a ticket to the applicant, who shall travel by the train named thereon.

Well, we have travelled a long way along the road, or railroad, to Freedom since then, even if we have not yet reached journey's end.

GIVE PRAISE

OPRAISE the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.

Psalms 117

Cowboys Come to Europe

"CATTLEBOATING" is becoming popular among young American conscientious objectors. One party of "cowboys," as they have been nicknamed, have just returned from looking after a consignment of cattle sent from America for distribution by Unrra in Europe. Another party have conducted 400 heifers to Bremerhaven, whence they will go on to Czechoslovakia, and a third group of cowboys are probably on the way over now.

Many of the cattle involved have been provided by the Church of the Brethren, who early in the war realised the need there would be to replenish Europe's stocks. Many of their members are farmers, who agreed to set aside young animals for this purpose; and the non-farmers helped by contributing money toward the cost of rearing these welcome gifts for countries whose cattle were killed.

Teach Me, Please!



A little Londoner entranced by the tall Scots Guards piper.

Coal From the Bed of a Lake

A HUGE dragline excavator, a machine weighing 162 tons, is being used to uncover a seam of valuable coal at Lake Kimihia, in New Zealand.

Part of the lake has been dammed and pumped dry, and the excavator is now busy removing 30 feet of soil from 30 acres of dry land that was formerly the bed of the lake. The coal thus uncovered is being used in the furnaces of railway engines.

Many years ago there was a coalmine under the lake, but it had to be abandoned for fear that water should find its way into the mine galleries. Now this big machine is being used to win the coal by open-cast methods. When the machine arrived from America, in parts, a pretty problem was set for the engineers. It had been made for Russia, but owing to the war ending it was not needed there. On proceeding to put the parts of the machine together, the New Zealand engineers found that the instructions were in the Russian language!

This difficulty was soon overcome, however, and the machine is now at work.

HONOURING THE GREATEST SCIENTIST OF ALL

THE Royal Society, which itself originated about 300 years ago, is this month celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Sir Isaac Newton, bearer of the most illustrious name on its long and distinguished roll. Newton was actually born on Christmas Day 1642, but the war, of course, prevented full homage to the third centenary of this great occasion.

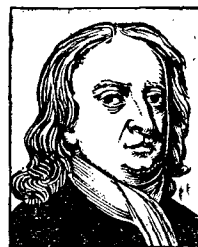
Isaac Newton, who was to prove one of the greatest minds of his age, or indeed of any other age, was born at the Manor House in the Lincolnshire hamlet of Woolsthorpe. The house still stands, and through the good offices of the Royal Society and the Pilgrim Trust will continue to be treasured as a priceless fragment of our English heritage. Safe, too, is the orchard where, according to tradition, he first received his inspiration for the theory of gravitation.

Woolsthorpe is but a hamlet, tucked away in the quiet byways of south-west Lincolnshire, but it will ever be a place of pilgrimage. There, hemmed in by haystacks and farm buildings, is Woolsthorpe Manor, attractive with mullioned windows, tall, square chimneys, and great beams in the ceilings of its spacious rooms. Mellowed are its greystone walls, for they have seen the passing of centuries, and they will see the passing of many more.

From this house it was, just over 300 years ago, that two kindly old women hobbled as fast as they could go to the home of Lady Pakenham, a mile or two away at North Witham, to beg medicine for a weak and tiny baby who seemed likely to die. "I have often heard my mother say," Isaac Newton told a friend, "that when I was a baby I was so tiny you might have put me into a quart pot." Such was the unpromising beginning of one of the world's greatest thinkers, who lived to see his 85th year!

Upstairs in Woolsthorpe Manor is the bedroom where the weakly infant was born; and on one of its walls is a tablet inscribed with a record of the event, and these famous lines by Alexander Pope:

*Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night;
God said Let Newton be! and all was light.*



In another bedroom is a little partitioned chamber said to have been used by young Isaac as a study.

There are more links with the great man's childhood in the church at Colsterworth close by. On New Year's Day 1643, just a week after his birthday, they carried the baby boy to this ancient house of prayer for his christening by the rector of the parish, Master Matthew Hewett; and the register records the great day with the entry: Isaac, the sonne of Isaac and Hanna Newton. Isaac the father had passed away a month or two before.

Here, in the Newton chapel, rebuilt in his memory, sleep three generations of his people; and here, too, in a frame below a corbel on which his portrait is carved, is a sundial that he cut with his pen as a boy of nine, when the scientist in him was already budding.

Such, then, are the closest links we have with the event which is now being celebrated. Links with the earliest days of this great Englishman whose memory is now universally honoured.

Tributes to Genius

Of the reasons for Newton's fame there is no call for us to speak here. "If I have done the public any service," he said, "it is due to nothing but industry and patient thought." But that was the modesty of true greatness. All learned men have paid tribute to his genius. Lord Rayleigh once said that his experiments are the model for all time of how experiments should be conducted; and Sir James Jeans has described him as the greatest of all scientists.

The passing years have served only to emphasise his greatness. Time cannot wither the true assessment of Isaac Newton's mighty intellect.



THIS ENGLAND

The Roffey Park Rehabilitation Centre, Horsham, visited by Queen Mary

Sir Thomas More's Fine Home

SIR THOMAS MORE, the great Englishman who died for his defiance of Henry VIII, would be glad to know that his ancient City home, Crosby Hall, will soon be back in its modern peacetime role; for he was a pioneer in the education of women, and brilliant women from all over the world have in our time found a home at Crosby Hall.

Crosby Hall has a romantic history. It was built in 1464 as part of the mansion of Sir John Crosby, a wealthy wool merchant who became Sheriff and MP for London. After his death his friend, Sir Thomas More, purchased the house and lived there until, with the growing menace of the king's displeasure, More's friends persuaded him to move away into less conspicuous surroundings.

Later, Crosby Hall came into the possession of the wealthy Spencer family, and it was here that the gay and gallant first Earl of Northampton came to woo Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Spencer. Lord Mayor of London. Sir John, however, would not hear of their marriage, and they decided to elope. And little did Sir John dream, as one day he passed a stalwart baker's boy carrying a bread basket on the steps of Crosby Hall, that the baker's boy was none other than young Northampton, and that in the basket was his daughter, off to be wed against his wish.

But let us return to the fortunes of Sir Thomas More, with which Crosby Hall is so closely linked.

He had a house in the village of Chelsea, beside the Thames, and his daughter Margaret Roper, whose devotion to him is a moving chapter in English his-



tory, had a smaller house close by. Here she and her sisters, as brilliant as herself and as splendidly educated by their father, held classic disputations, a Brains Trust of Tudor times. In days when few Englishwomen had any education, they could hold their own with learned men.

Old Crosby Hall survived the Great Fire of 1666, but in 1926 it was threatened with demolition, as the site was wanted for some modern buildings. Oxford and Cambridge men working in the City joined with a Chelsea committee and the British Federation of University Women in an idea of amazing boldness. On the very spot where Margaret Roper and her sisters 400 years ago proved to a doubting world that women could be as learned as men, they would take Crosby Hall down stone by stone and raise it again "To the Encouragement of Learning and the Promotion of Friendship between the Women of All Nations." And in the autumn of 1927 Queen Mary opened the re-erected Crosby Hall as a residence and club-house for British and foreign university women.

On August 6 it is hoped to reopen the Hall completely after its war service, which was chiefly as a school and hostel for Wrens; long may it thrive.

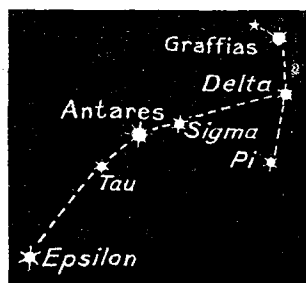
GIGANTIC SUNS OF THE SCORPION

By the C N Astronomer

THE bright stars of Scorpio, the Scorpion of the southern Heavens, may now be seen almost due south as soon as the sky darkens sufficiently. They may be readily identified from our star-map, but these stars represent less than half of this immense constellation; for away to the left, and at a lower altitude, extends the long curving Tail.

We have seen from our last article on Libra the extent to which the Claws of this Scorpion of the ancients once extended away to the right; and as these stars are between those shown on this star-map and the bright Jupiter, they will be easily identified.

As an entire constellation the Scorpion is superb, containing the largest known sun, Antares, six stars of second magnitude, and eight of third. Were Antares as near to us as our Sun it would cover most of the sky at noonday; for Antares has a



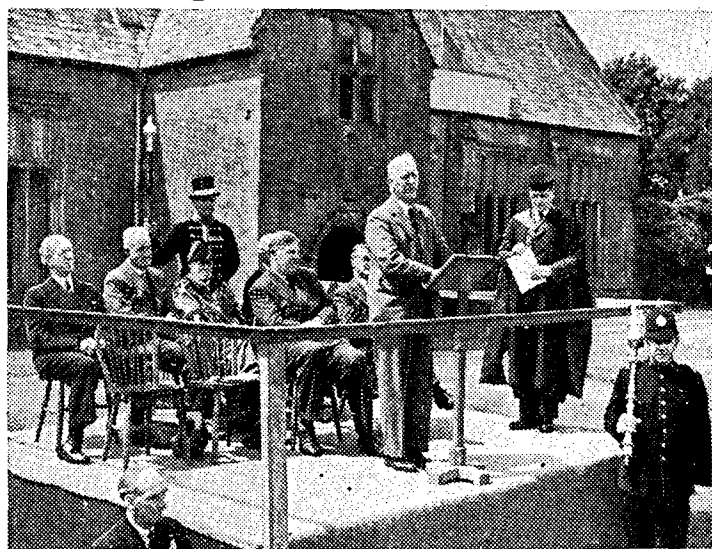
diameter which varies between 285 million and 389 million miles. When at the height of its periodical expansive outbursts of whirling flame Antares attains a stupendous width some 450 times greater than that of our Sun. Antares is in a much more gaseous and rarefied condition and has a surface temperature little more than half that of our Sun, which accounts for the reddish tint of Antares. But its immensity causes this sun to radiate about 3400 times more light and heat than our Sun but, fortunately, from a distance 23 million times as far. Antares is known to possess a distant "companion" sun which is much smaller and hotter, shining with a greenish light.

A Terrific Speed

The next brightest star in Scorpio is Beta, also known by its ancient name of Graffias. It is composed of at least four great suns, the central pair of this grand solar system radiating about 1200 times more light and heat than our Sun. They are only about 18 million miles apart and revolve round their centre of gravity at terrific speed in only 6½ days. The other suns are at a considerable distance away, one radiating about 170 times more light than our Sun, the whole system being some 28,480,000 times farther away than our Sun.

Sigma is another great sun which has a small planetary sun, doubtless a world-to-be, at a great distance. They are about 362 light years from us, that is, 22,900,000 times farther than our Sun. Delta is also another colossal sun radiating about 700 times more light than our Sun, but from 18,700,000 times farther away. G. F. M.

Handing Back Old Blundell's



ABOUT 1534 a poor boy named Peter Blundell, who made a living by running errands and holding horses in the Devon town of Tiverton, saved up enough money to buy a small length of cloth called kersey, which a friend sold for him in London at a profit. From then on Peter Blundell went on buying and selling kersey until he amassed a huge fortune, of which he gave nearly £40,000—a vast sum in those days—to charity. In his will (he died in 1601 aged 81), he left a bequest for a free grammar school to be built in Tiverton, and Peter Blundell's School was opened there in 1604.

Blundell's became famous, and in 1882 moved from the original building—seen in the picture—to a fine group of new buildings a mile out of the town. The old building, which is said to have roof timbers from Armada ships and which Fairfax made his headquarters in the Civil War, became a collection of private houses.

Now the Old Blundellian Society have purchased the old building and handed it back to the school. In the picture above, the Duke of Somerset, an Old Blundellian, is speaking at the ceremony of handing the deeds of the old building to the School Governors.

When the school moved in 1882 they took with them a cobbled pavement which contained, in white pebbles, the initials "P B" in copybook letters. One of Blundell's famous sons, R. D. Blackmore, described in his classic, *Lorna Doone*, what happened in the old days when the flood waters from the adjacent Loman stream reached the initials on the pavement:

"Upon the very instant when the waxing element lips though it may be but a single pebble of the founder's letters, it is in the licence of any boy, soever small and undisciplined, to rush into the great schoolrooms where a score of masters sit heavily, and scream at the top of his voice 'P.B.' Then with a yell the boys leap up... they toss their caps to the black beamed roof... the great boys vex no more the small ones, and the small boys stick up to the great ones; one with another, hard they go to see the gain of the waters... Then the masters look at one another... with a spirited bang they close their books." Floods meant a holiday for them!

It is fitting that this old building, with its memories and traditions of the past, should belong once more to Devon's famous public school.

PALESTINE'S YOUNGEST CITY

TEL AVIV, the Jewish town on the coast of Palestine, has been much in the news lately. It is a city built by Jews for Jews, and is probably the youngest town of its size anywhere outside Soviet Russia.

Forty years ago Tel Aviv was a tiny fishing village, its few insignificant huts hidden in the sandhills. Today it is practically the same size as Jerusalem and has a population of 155,300—all Jews. The first Jews, 60 families, went there in 1908 from the neighbouring ancient seaport of Jaffa, because of the high rents and lack of sanitation. In 1921 Tel Aviv was still little more than a suburb of Jaffa with a population of 3066. Then trouble broke out between Jews and Arabs and the Jews decided they must form an independent centre, so they left Jaffa in large numbers, taking their industries with them, and settled in Tel Aviv.

Now it has grown into a city with spacious avenues lined with modern houses. There are streets of smart shops; theatres,

cinemas, trams, buses, libraries, and a fine beach for bathing. Tel Aviv has also developed as a seaport though large vessels, as at Jaffa, still have to lie at anchor off the town, the harbour being too small for them.

The Jewish Sabbath is strictly observed in Tel Aviv. From one hour before sunset on Friday all work ceases and synagogues are crowded.

Everywhere sympathisers with the persecuted Jews will pray that the problem of a future for them in Palestine will be settled by the exertions of men of good will of all parties.

Telephoning a Liner

It is now possible again to speak to people on liners which are still at sea by means of radio-telephone. The service was reopened recently and the cost is £3 12s to talk for three minutes with someone on a liner which is more than 500 miles from Land's End, and £1 16s for three minutes within that distance. The service is open every weekday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

BEDTIME CORNER

THE HUNGRY STARLING

HANDY, spandy,
Speckled, and bandy,
Waddling and whistling—here
he comes!
Poking his beak in
Everything, seeking
Earwigs and centipedes, tit-
bits and crumbs.

CHERRY RIPE



Prayer

DEAR Jesus in Heaven, teach
me to see only the good in
all things, as Thou didst.

Amen

The Bird and the Basket

ONCE upon a time an old man kept a sparrow of which he was very fond, and he was sad when it flew away. He used to go out to look for it, and at last one day he met the bird, who took him to its home and gave him a basket.

"Where have you been all day?" asked the old man's wife when he returned.

"I have been to the home of my lost sparrow and was given this basket as a present," he replied.

Then they opened the basket to find that it was full of gold and silver!

The woman, who was very greedy, made up her mind that she, too, would have a basket of gold, so she set out for the sparrow's home.

In her house she had treated the bird cruelly, but now she flattered it.

When she was coming away the sparrow gave her the choice of two baskets, one rather light, the other very heavy.

"Ah," thought the greedy woman, "the heavy basket will have more gold and silver!"

But when she got home and opened it, it was full of stones.

Greediness is always punished in the end.

India's Ironsides

THE BRAVE SIKHS OF THE PUNJAB

IN their proposals for the representation of the Indian peoples in the Legislative Assembly of the future Union of India the British Cabinet Mission singled out one community as distinct from the Moslems and what they called the General. This community was the Sikhs, who were allotted four seats.

Among India's teeming millions the Sikh community, because of its fine military record and chivalrous traditions, stands apart. Its members have been described as the Knights Templars of India, though perhaps they remind us more of the militant puritans of Cromwellian days.



Actually the name Sikh does not denote any particular race, but is the title given to the members of a military order of Hindu dissenters who broke away from Brahminism as long ago as 1500. They wanted more democracy in religion, and, rejecting the caste system, opened their ranks to all and sundry. Though anyone may become a Sikh, two-thirds of the Sikh population, which numbers about six millions, belong to the Jat race, a widely distributed people in north-western India, especially in the Punjab. They are tall, light brown in colour, and have long heads.

With the military instinct strongly developed, they make excellent soldiers. Sikhs are initiated at a ceremony of bread and water, and are known throughout the East by their beard, short drawers, iron bracelet, comb, and sword.

Under their great leader, Ranjit Singh, the Lion of Lahore, they became the War Lords of the Punjab. Bound together in a fighting brotherhood known as the Khalsar, they fought against

the British 100 years ago. Soon after the Punjab became part of British India, several Sikh corps were raised and added to the Bengal Army. These regiments remained loyal to the British in the days of the Mutiny, one newly formed battalion under Captain Rattray winning eternal renown in one of the most striking episodes of that terrible period. This was the defence of a house at Arrah, which was held by 15 European and Indian residents, and 50 of Rattray's men.

The rebel leaders did all in their power to induce the Sikhs to join them. In the words of an old record: "When the offer to share with them the plunder of the treasures of those sacked, and still to be sacked, was scornfully rejected, threats of the doom which hung over them were freely used. The most earnest appeals to their nationality and religion were alike ignored. Rattray's Sikhs remained loyal to the Government which gave them their salt."

Such is only one incident in the history and achievements of this military race, of whom, as one authority has said: "Whether in cantonments or on service, they are ever the same—always genial, good tempered and uncomplaining, reliable horsemen, stubborn infantrymen, and as steady in defence as they are bold and impetuous in attack."

AMERICA LENDS HER PAINTINGS

IT was a happy idea that in this first summer of peace an exhibition of American paintings should be held in the reopened Tate Gallery.

That Gallery has long been the home of masterpieces by James McNeill Whistler and John Singer Sargent, and by their predecessors John Singleton Copley, Benjamin West, and Gilbert Stuart.

Many works by these artists, lent by their owners in this

country and overseas, help us to appreciate them more; for example, West's Death of Bayard, with its symbolism of the Cross and the trumpeters, lent by the King, and Copley's Death of Wolfe, with a Red Indian gazing with awe at the hero, lent by the National Gallery of Canada.

But it is the American painters who are new names to so many of us that are the chief attraction in this Exhibition. Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins, who both rejoiced in the open air life, especially sailing, and George Inness, a romantic idealist, and Albert Pinkham Ryder, whose realm was in the imagination, are painters of genius.

The collection shows American art right up to the present day and reveals a school of painting characteristic of that country.

Preparing For April 1, 1947

MISS WILKINSON, Minister of Education, recently gave the House of Commons an outline of the difficult preparations now being made to raise the school-leaving age to 15 on April 1 next year. As well as 13,000 new teachers, 5000 additional classrooms will be needed. Orders for work to begin on 2400 of them have been given.

Miss Wilkinson said that for the first time in our history this year's expenditure on Education

AN ENGLISH JOAN OF ARC

FOUR hundred years ago this week, on July 16, 1546, there perished at the stake in Smithfield, London, one of the first Englishwomen on the roll of the Protestant martyrs. She was Anne Askew, and she died because her conscience forbade her to accept the Six Articles whereby King Henry the Eighth sought to control the religious beliefs of the Church of England, of which Parliament had in 1534 made him the Supreme Head.

Anne Askew, from her study of the Bible that Henry had caused to be printed in English and used in all the churches, differed from the King's dictated creed on various points of doctrine, and so the seeds of tragedy were sown.

Driven From Home

Anne was born in Lincolnshire, daughter of a famous old family, and married young, against her will, to a man who, after she had become the mother of his two children, drove her from his home because her new religious views were in conflict with his own. She went to London, but her husband notified the authorities that she held religious doctrines not countenanced by the King, and was, therefore, a heretic.

She was arrested and examined by bishops and other dignitaries, and even by the Lord Mayor of London. Anne, who was a woman of education as well as of character, showed extraordinary ability in meeting and confounding her questioners. Her conduct of her defence was as courageous, as intelligent, and as dangerous to herself as that of Joan of Arc, whose trial that of the young Englishwoman closely resembled.

Amazing Courage

Confined in more than one prison, she was on trial or under cross-examination for upwards of a year. Again and again her judges vainly sought to induce her to change her attitude and so save her life. Anne would not yield a syllable. At last, in the belief that her inspired obstinacy must proceed from the support of accomplices in high places, she was brutally racked in the Tower to make her confess.

Anne Askew had nothing to confess; she had no religious confederates; her religious beliefs were unshakable.

So, on July 16, 1546, maimed and crippled, she was borne on a chair to Smithfield, and there burned at the stake. To the last, although promised a free pardon if she would recant, she remained firm and unshaken, and died as she had lived, serene, constant, transfigured by unquailing heroism. She was only 25.

The Inn That is Different

THE village inn is a feature of our countryside, but it comes as a surprise to find one staffed by children and run exclusively for children. Yet, in the charming Derbyshire village of Rowarth, near busy Manchester, there is such an "Inn"—believed to be the only one of its kind in Britain today.

Twenty-five years ago a sixteenth-century building was requisitioned, and since that time it has served as a children's holiday hostel. Above the door is a decorative inn-sign depicting favourite nursery-rhyme characters, and proclaiming to the passer-by that this is the Children's Inn.

The resident secretary is a Guide Commissioner, Miss E. J. Ashton, whose job it is to administer satisfactorily the affairs of the Inn. She plans a daily duty rota, which ensures that every child has a certain task to perform—"Much as would be expected of the children were they at home and helping mother," she says.

Here can be seen the proverbial hundred-and-one jobs of the average housewife done quite creditably by children. Whether it be washing, polishing, or cooking, the work is done always with a smile.

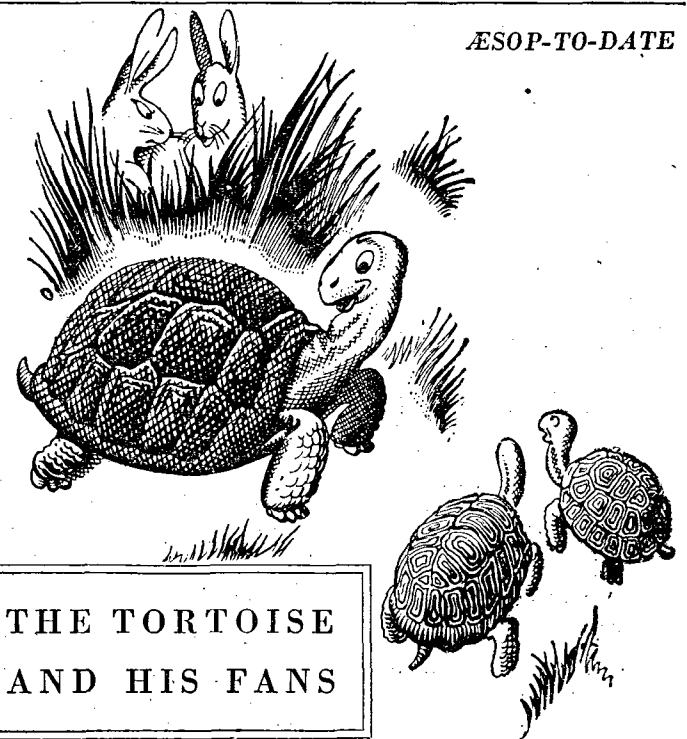
An average of 600 children are accommodated yearly at the Inn.

It is essentially a summer-time hostel. The first party of children to arrive this year were thirty-three Girl Guides who stayed over the Easter holidays, and all expressed the wish to come again. In past years Guide conferences have been held at the Inn—an ideal centre.

Although most of the young visitors to the Inn are Girl Guides, it is not exclusively a Guides' hostel. Many children from the poorer districts of Manchester have enjoyed inexpensive holidays there. And the obvious pleasure of the young visitors to this delightful inn, with its peaceful country atmosphere, is its own reward for the ladies of the voluntary committee responsible for its upkeep.

We should like to hear of more Children's Inns being established in the rural surroundings of other great cities.

ÆSOP-TO-DATE



THE TORTOISE AND HIS FANS

The Tortoise who outraced the Hare in the well-known Fable was one day asked by some young tortoises to tell them the story of his famous victory. "Do not be misled, my juvenile friends," said the old fellow. "The Hare is an impetuous creature whose only fault is his impulsiveness. The secret of true success is to hurry slowly. Thus you will always get to your goal, and usually in advance of the over-eager."

The Moral of this Savings Fable is:

It's not a very good idea to rush out and spend your Savings. Later on there'll be more exciting things in the shops. And if you go on Saving, you'll have all the more money to spend on them. So, whenever you can, buy 6d., 2/6, or 5/-

NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS

You wouldn't let a child keep coughing

There's no need to. Half a teaspoonful of 'Pineate' Honey Cough-Syrup brings almost instant relief. It sends a glowing warmth throughout inflamed or congested areas. Breaks up phlegm. Eases throat, chest and lungs. A dose at bedtime brings untroubled sleep. Keep a 1/9 bottle by you.



'Pineate'
HONEY COUGH-SYRUP

THE BRAN TUB

THE MODERN MISS

TEACHER: Now, Connie, what do you consider the most important thing today which was not here in the last century?
Pupil: Me.

Riddles About Cricket

WHEN is a cricketer very unkind? When he bowls a maiden over.

What is a great game on a small scale? Cricket on the hearth.

When does a cricketer make time? When he makes a century.

A Simple Catch

PRODUCE a small curtain ring and invite a friend to push another's head through it.

If he says that is impossible, just put your finger through the ring and give his head a gentle push.

PUZZLE LIMERICK

"UP Hill to the
let's ramble,"
Said Bob leading his dog at an
amble,
"With these then we'll play
Till we for today,
And return down the hill at a
shamble."

Find the five missing words, which are all spelled with the same letters differently arranged.
Answer next week

Sleep, Baby, Sleep
...and grow
...and thrive
...and gain!

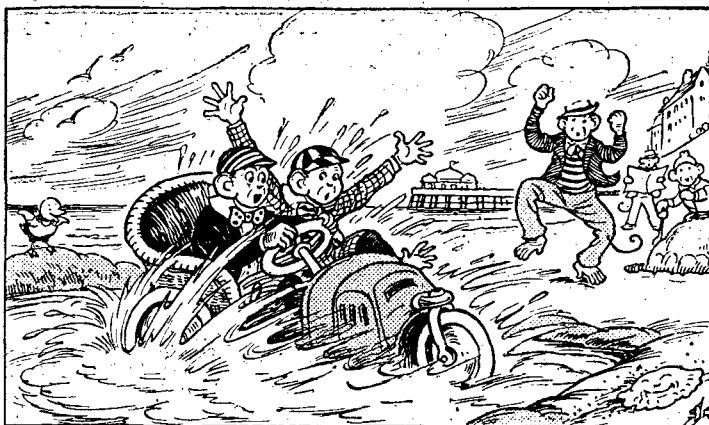


A baby must have long hours of restful, unbroken sleep if he is to grow into a sturdy, healthy child. For this reason mothers see to it that stomach upsets are corrected at once. A small dose of 'Milk of Magnesia' quickly soothes baby when fretful or upset and paves the way to undisturbed sleep. Keep 'Milk of Magnesia' in the medicine cabinet always.

'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

*'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

Jacko's Bath-Chair Bathe



WALKING along the beach while on a trip to the seaside, Jacko and Chimp saw a motor bath-chair for hire. "Let's ride home in this," suggested Jacko, who was feeling lazy. "But we don't know how to drive it," objected Chimp. "I know all about these things," replied Jacko importantly. They got in, but Jacko put the engine into reverse, the bath-chair shot backwards and lived up to its name in an unexpected way! The chairman, when he arrived, was not at all amused.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Invaluable Ladybirds. "Ladybird, Ladybird, fly away home," chanted Ann. "Your house is on fire and your children alone," continued Don.

"Well I hope they have gone into my garden," said Farmer Gray, who had overheard the children. "Why?" asked Ann. "Because the Ladybird's larvae, or children, eat even more green-fly than their parents. There are many species of Ladybird in Great Britain; the commonest is probably the seven-spot Ladybird. These useful little insects belong to the beetle family, and are so valuable in destroying green-fly that they have even been specially bred and exported to places that suffer badly from the aphid infection."

Tongue Twister

PLEASE place the plaice in a pleasant place to please the placed plaice.

FACTS ABOUT GREENLAND

THE second biggest island in the world, most of Greenland lies within the Arctic circle north east of Canada. It is the only Danish colonial possession. Of its area of 736,518 square miles, 705,234 square miles consist of a gigantic ice-cap and only 31,284 is ice-free land. Population, about 16,630, of whom about 400 are Danes and the rest Eskimos. The trade of Greenland is a Government monopoly.

The Eskimos are a merry, friendly people. In the winter, they live in igloos, which are huts built partly underground of

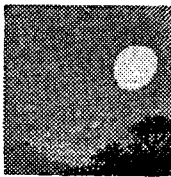
THREE IN ONE

I SAW one on a woodwork bench;
I saw one in the sky;
And, finally, I saw a third
As woodlands I passed by.
Each was a different object, yet
Each had the same short name.
What are these three quite
different things,
Sounding and spelt the same?

Answer next week

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Venus are in the west, and Jupiter is in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 6.30 B.S.T. on Friday morning, July 19.



Maxim to Memorise

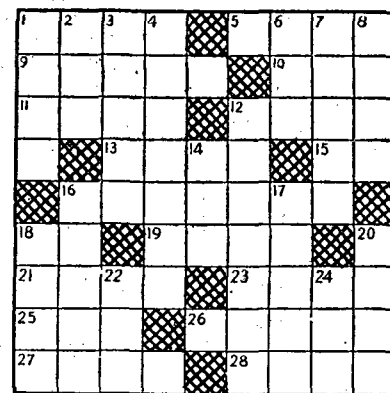
CHASE two rabbits and catch none.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1. An army. 5. An obligation. 9. Later in time. 10. To regret. 11. A heavenly body. 12. Limbs. 13. The commonest metal. 15. Physical Training (abbrev.). 16. Journeyings. 18. Conjunction. 19. Advanced. 21. Wan. 23. A legendary monster. 25. Bustle. 26. This slow mover takes his house with him. 27. More limbs. 28. Common timber trees.

Reading Down. 1. A hooked clasp. 2. Frequently. 3. Helps you to reach the upper floor. 4. A street along the face of a slope. 6. To wander. 7. Protuberances. 8. A trial. 12. The wind flower. 14. Eggs. 16. Commerce. 17. According to law. 18. An iridescent precious stone. 20. Long slithery fishes. 22. A bulky piece of timber. 24. Edge.

Answer next week



IDLE CHATTER

WHAT an age you have been?"
"I've been having a long talk with old Jones."
"All about nothing, I suppose?"
"Quite—we've been talking about you."

Catch Question

WHAT is the difference between a penny and a shilling?

Elevenpence

WAYS OF COUNTING OUT

HALEY, maley, tipperley, tig, Teeney, Tiney, Tombo, Nig, Goat, throat, banknote, Tiney, Toney, Tee. You are he.

Old Dan Tucker climbed a tree,
He climbed so high he couldn't see,
A lizard caught him by the snout,
He called for me to pull him out.
O-u-t spells out.



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